CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for conveying an attribute of a digital image, comprising encoding the

2   attribute using the case of letters in an extension of a file name associated with the

       digital image.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the case of each letter in the extension is one of

2   upper case and lower case.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the extension comprises N letters such that the

2   case of the N letters is capable of representing 2^N combinations.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoded attribute is the orientation of the

2   digital image.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein all the letters in the extension being in the same

2   case indicates the digital image is right side up in landscape orientation.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein a leftmost letter in the extension being in a case

2   different from that of the remaining letters in the extension indicates the digital

       image is rotated by 90 degrees in a first sense relative to a right-side-up landscape

4   orientation and a rightmost letter in the extension being in a case different from

       that of the remaining letters in the extension indicates the digital image is rotated

6   by 90 degrees in a second sense opposite the first sense relative to a right-side-up

landscape orientation.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the first sense is counterclockwise and the second

2   sense is clockwise.

8.   The method of claim 4, wherein a central letter in the extension having a case

2   different from the case of the remaining letters in the extension indicates the

digital image is inverted relative to a right-side-up landscape orientation.

9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting the orientation of the digital

2   image when the digital image is captured by a digital imaging device and wherein

the encoded attribute is the orientation of the digital image.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the letters in the extension are one of "jpg," "gif,"

2   and "tif."

11. A method for displaying a digital image, comprising:

2   reading a file name associated with the digital image, the file name

including an extension, the extension comprising at least one letter, each of the

4   at least one letters being represented in one of at least two possible cases;

interpreting the case of the at least one letters as an encoded attribute

6   of the digital image; and

displaying the digital image in accordance with the encoded attribute.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least two possible cases are upper case

2   and lower case.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the encoded attribute is the orientation of the

2   digital image.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein displaying the digital image in accordance with

2   the encoded attribute comprises rotating the digital image to compensate for the

        orientation of the digital image.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one letters in the extension are one of

2   "jpg," "gif," and "tif."

16. A digital imaging device, comprising:

2   an imaging module to convert an optical image to a digital image, the

        digital image having an attribute;

4   a memory in which to store the digital image; and

        control logic configured to associate a file name with the digital image,

6   the file name including an extension, the extension comprising at least one

        letter, the case of the at least one letters being selected by the control logic to

8   encode the attribute.

17. The digital imaging device of claim 16, wherein the case of each of the at least

2   one letters is one of upper case and lower case.

18. The digital imaging device of claim 16, wherein the attribute is the orientation of

2   the digital image.

19. The digital imaging device of claim 18, further comprising an orientation

2   detection subsystem to detect the orientation of the digital image when the optical

image is converted to the digital image.

20. The digital imaging device of claim 16, wherein the digital imaging device is one

2   of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, and a PDA.

21. A digital imaging device, comprising:

2   means for converting an optical image to a digital image;

means for storing the digital image; and

4   means for associating a file name with the digital image, the file name

including an extension, the extension comprising at least one letter and for

6   selecting the case of the at least one letters so as to encode an attribute of the

digital image.

22. The digital imaging device of claim 21, wherein the case of each of the at least

2   one letters in the extension is one of upper case and lower case.

23. The digital imaging device of claim 21, wherein the encoded attribute is the

2   orientation of the digital image.

24. A system programmed to perform the following method:

2   reading a file name associated with a digital image, the file name

                     including an extension, the extension comprising at least one letter, each of the

4   at least one letters being represented in one of at least two possible cases;

                          interpreting the case of the at least one letters as an encoded attribute

6   of the digital image; and

                          displaying the digital image in accordance with the encoded attribute.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the at least two possible cases are upper case and

2   lower case.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the encoded attribute is the orientation of the

2   digital image.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein displaying the digital image in accordance with

2   the encoded attribute comprises rotating the digital image to compensate for the

           orientation of the digital image.

28. A computer-readable storage medium containing program code to display a digital

2   image, comprising:

                          a first code segment that reads a file name associated with a digital

4   image, the file name including an extension, the extension comprising at least

           one letter, each of the at least one letters being represented in one of at least

6   two possible cases;

                          a second code segment that interprets the case of the at least one letters

8   as an encoded attribute of the digital image; and

a third code segment that causes the digital image to be displayed in

10   accordance with the encoded attribute.

29. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 28, wherein the at least two

2   possible cases are upper case and lower case.

30. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 28, wherein the encoded

2   attribute is the orientation of the digital image.

31. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein the third code

2   segment, to compensate for the orientation of the digital image, rotates the digital

            image.